



Division Command Sergeant

rigors of combat. Every Soldier is a warrior, and we must train that way. It is imperative that all Soldiers are proficient in basic warfighting skills, and develop a physical toughness that will sustain them on the battlefield. We must take advantage of this opportunity to prepare Soldiers, build teams and grow leaders for the future. It's what you learn after you know everything that counts. Our commitment to excellence and training to tough and exacting standards will ensure everyone is prepared to succeed.

The safe and successful accomplishment of the training mission will require Soldiers and leaders to be involved and disciplined in the enforcement of standards under the most arduous conditions. We must not lower any standards or cut corners. Lower standards lead to unsuccessful missions and unsafe practices. We have to work smartly to ensure that our Soldiers are successful and safe. Leaders must take the time to talk with Soldiers, and make sure they understand the training tasks and overall mission. Time spent reinforcing tasks during training may save lives later on down the road.

Everywhere I've visited recently, Iron Soldiers are fully engaged with training and preparing for the challenges of the upcoming intensive training cycle. I see the dedication, and commitment our Soldiers give everyday to their units and America's Tank Division. It is impressive and I am very proud of all Iron Soldiers for what they do everyday, and continue to do.

The upcoming training period will be a busy time for the Division as we continue to reintegrate and prepare for the next mission by training in a tough, realistic, field environment. All units of America's Tank Division will and must train to regain proficiency in field craft and warfighting skills thus enabling our Soldiers to fight, survive and win together on the Global War on Terrorism battlefield.

The Division's experience in combat has reinforced the premise that all Soldiers are warfighters and members of a fighting force that must be fit to endure the

Well-trained Soldiers equal hard work mentally and physically. Knowing the Warrior Ethos — and living it — remains as a guide to being a warfighter and a successful warfighting organization. We are a team that works together through the strength of individual initiative, commitment, and responsibility to the mission. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months as we conduct the mission of training America's Tank Division.

"Learn and improve today, tomorrow may be the tough fight."

Iron Soldiers!

Roger P. Blackwood
CSM, USA
Division Command Sergeant Major